



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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GAIL FARBER, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

August 13, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

40 August 13, 2013

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF ENGINEER TO  
IMPLEMENT WORK TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL DAMAGE FROM  
THE 2013 MADISON FIRE IN MONROVIA USING PUBLIC WORKS FORCES  
AND TO SECURE GRANT FUNDING  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)  
(3 VOTES)**

### **SUBJECT**

This action is to authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to proceed with installation of temporary postfire debris barriers in the area burned by the April 2013 Madison Fire (City of Monrovia) using Public Works forces, at a not to exceed total cost of \$920,000, and to enter into agreements for access and grant funding for the work.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

1. Find that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this letter and in the project records.
2. Approve the project and delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to use Public Works forces to install temporary postfire debris barriers at a total cost not to exceed \$920,000, to mitigate potential debris flow damage to residences and infrastructure in the area of the 2013 Madison Fire.
3. Authorize the Internal Services Department, as the County purchasing agent, to proceed with the acquisition of equipment, materials, and vendor services needed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to install postfire debris barriers.

4. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to acquire the necessary rights of way and permits, and enter into agreements with the City of Monrovia, if necessary, for the postfire debris barriers.
5. Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to submit grant applications to the Natural Resources Conservation Service in order to secure Federal funds under the agency's Emergency Watershed Program for the installation of temporary debris barriers necessitated by the 2013 Madison Fire.
6. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to execute documentation required to accept grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the installation of postfire debris barriers.
7. Approve an exception to the County's Grant Policy by authorizing the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to accept grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the installation of postfire debris barriers.
8. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer or her designee, on behalf of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, to conduct business with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on any and all matters related to the grant funds for the installation of postfire debris barriers.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended actions is to find the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) or her designee to use Public Works forces to install temporary debris barriers in the impacted fire area, and to authorize the Chief Engineer of the District to submit grant applications, execute the documentation necessary to accept the grant funding, and, as an exception to the County's Grant Policy, accept the grant funding. Expedited action is needed to protect the downstream community and infrastructure, including facilities of the District, from the anticipated debris flows during postfire storms. The initial postfire storm season begins October 15, 2013. It will take several months to install the temporary debris barriers. The temporary debris barriers can be more effectively scheduled and completed before the onset of the storm season if the work is performed by Public Works forces. The debris barriers will remain in place until the burned watershed recovers.

Debris barriers such as those proposed herein are usually eligible for grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service under its Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Typically this program pays for 75 percent of the implementation costs and an additional amount of up to 5 percent for the District's in-kind services such as design and inspection, thus significantly decreasing the District's costs for these temporary debris barriers. To facilitate formal acceptance of the grants in order to secure Federal funds for these public safety protection measures, the District is recommending that, for these debris barriers, the Board approve an exception to the County's grant policy requiring the grants to be accepted by the Board. Specifically, it is recommended that the Chief Engineer of the District or her designee be permitted to accept the grants on behalf of the District.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provisions of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1). The recommended actions will meet the goal by expediting installation of temporary debris barriers to mitigate potential debris flow impacts resulting from the watershed burned by the 2013 Madison Fire, thus benefiting the residents of Los Angeles County and helping to maintain their quality of life.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

Funding for the force account work is available in the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Flood Control District Fund Budget. The estimated total cost of the work is \$920,000; including \$720,000 for installation and \$200,000 for design, permits, contract administration, inspection, and other County services. The District will seek reimbursement grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for up to 75 percent of the cost of installing the debris flow protection measures and an additional amount of up to 5 percent for the District's in-kind services.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 2013 Madison Fire burned over 80 acres above and within the City of Monrovia. The fire has significantly increased the burned area's debris runoff potential. There is the potential for significant debris flow impacts to numerous residences in the densely populated neighborhood below the burned area and to District facilities including an inlet and catch basins. The recovery process for the burned area will last approximately five years. The impacts and risks to the neighborhood can be mitigated by installing temporary debris barriers. The anticipated total cost of the temporary debris barriers, including installation, is \$920,000.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 20991, the Board may order work consisting of channel and dam protection; and temporary, maintenance, or emergency work to be performed by force account.

The safety of the people of the neighborhood below the 2013 Madison Fire area requires the District to take immediate action using Public Works forces to install temporary debris barriers above the neighborhood in anticipation of the significantly increased debris flow impacts that may occur until the burned area has recovered.

On October 19, 2010, the Board previously delegated authority to the Director of Public Works, acting as the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, to perform any construction work that is estimated to cost \$10,000 or less, using Public Works forces, provided that the Chief Engineer or her designee determines such work is exempt from CEQA. Since the project described in this letter is estimated to exceed \$10,000, the Board's approval of this work, using Public Works forces, is required.

To expedite installation of the postfire debris barriers, the District is recommending the Board's authorization for the Internal Services Department to proceed with all associated procurement of materials needed for the installation.

All grant agreements will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel prior to execution

by the Chief Engineer or her designee.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed project is statutorily exempt from the CEQA. Installation of temporary debris barriers, including acquisition of required easements, rights of way, and grant funding for the 2013 Madison Fire area is an action necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency within the definitions of CEQA and is therefore exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 21080(b)(4) of the Public Resources Code and Section 15269(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Upon the Board's approval of the project, the District will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with Section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

These actions will allow the Chief Engineer of the District to utilize Public Works forces for installation of protection measures necessary to efficiently and in a timely manner mitigate the potential impacts from the 2013 Madison Fire, and to seek and receive grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the work.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Water Resources Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Farber".

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:CS:abc

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office  
Internal Services Department (Gerald Plummer)